

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MARCH 2015

Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

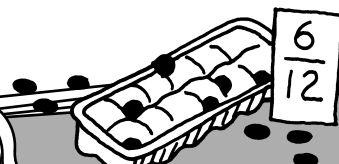
FRACTIONS Egg-carton toss

Don't throw away that empty egg carton! It makes the perfect tool for working with fractions.

Ingredients: empty egg cartons (lids cut off), scissors, buttons

Cut an egg carton to make a piece with 3 "dimples" (sections). Let your child put that piece on the floor, stand a few feet away, and try to lob in a few buttons. What fraction of the carton contains buttons? If buttons land in 2 of the 3 sections, it's $\frac{2}{3}$. Have her empty the carton and toss again. Since there are 3 spots, the denominator (bottom number) will always be 3.

To play with a different denominator, she could use a half-dozen carton (6 spots = a denominator of 6) or a whole carton (twelfths). Or cut a carton into a 4-section piece for fourths or a 2-section piece for halves.



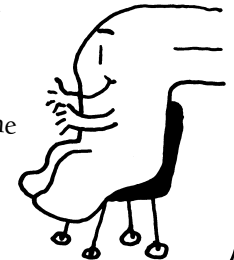
SPELLING Catch and spell

Tossing a ball around makes reviewing spelling words a sport!

Ingredients: spelling list, chairs, ball

Sit on chairs facing each other, with your child holding the ball. He reads a spelling word aloud and throws the ball to another player. That person says the word's first letter and tosses the ball to someone else, who gives the next letter. Continue playing until the word is spelled. (Note: Start again if someone says the wrong letter.)

The person who completes the word announces the next one and tosses the ball to another player, who says the first letter. There's no need to keep score—just have fun spelling!



READING Bookmark new words

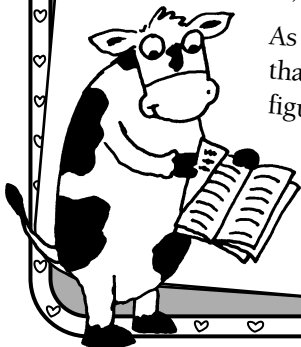
Watch your youngster's reading comprehension and vocabulary grow with this word-collecting activity.

Ingredients: envelopes, scissors, chapter book, pencil

Let your child seal several envelopes and cut them diagonally from one side to the other to form triangles. Then, read a book to her (one that's a little too hard for her to read on her own), and encourage her to collect and "decode" unfamiliar words.

As she reads, she can use each triangle to write down words that are new to her. She could use the context of a sentence to figure out what each word means or look it up in a dictionary. After you finish reading, suggest that she illustrate the words based on their meanings.

When she reads on her own, she can mark her place with one of her word bookmarks!



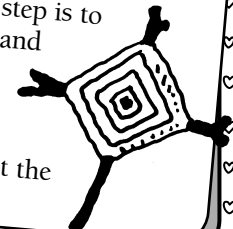
MATH

Have your youngster draw a 5 x 10 grid on a piece of paper, and give each player a different-color crayon. Take turns rolling a die and coloring that many squares. When the grid is filled, players count the number of squares they each colored. The person with the most wins.



ART

Your child can create a colorful decoration with yarn and two twigs. After crossing the twigs into an X, he should wrap the yarn around the center a few times to hold them together. The next step is to loop the yarn over and over around each twig. Eventually, a diamond shape will form. Help him knot the end, and display.



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GEOGRAPHY High-flying map

A bird's-eye view is an unusual way for your youngster to look at our world.

Ingredients: paper, crayons or markers, ruler or straight-edge

Ask your child to imagine he is a bird flying over your street. Encourage him to close his eyes and share what he sees from above as he flies. Perhaps he spies a swing set, trees, driveways, or the roof of an apartment building.

Now invite him to draw, color, and label a map from this perspective, using a ruler to keep lines straight. He can compare his map with an actual bird's-eye view by going to google.com/maps, typing in your address, and clicking on the Earth (or Satellite) icon at a corner of the page. (Keep clicking "+" for a closer view.)



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

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WRITING

You and your child could each cut 5 nouns, 5 verbs, and 5 adjectives from an old magazine or newspaper. Glue your lists to separate sheets of paper, and swap. Then, write a story using all 15 words somewhere in your text. When you finish, read your stories to each other.

running

turnip

cold

Small

WORD PROBLEMS

Kids love to take pictures. Why not let your youngster snap one and create a word problem related to it? For a photo of walking your dog, she might say, "The Smiths began their dog walk at 2:00. They ended at 2:45. How long were they gone?" Solve her problem, and then make up one for her to answer.



LISTENING

Ask your child to find and bring you a household object you name (spoon, hairbrush, napkin). When he completes the task, ask him again, but have him bring two objects. Each time, increase the number of items to strengthen his listening skills.



Character Corner

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Each morning, family members should say one positive thing about the day. ("I loved the pancakes Dad made for breakfast." "The sun is shining already.") To keep an upbeat attitude, encourage your child to remember these comments throughout the day.



INITIATIVE

Have your youngster list his daily chores. At bedtime, he can mark those completed without reminders. Discuss other jobs he could occasionally do (wash the car). Challenge him to do those or other chores without being asked.



TEAMWORK

Blindfold one player, and hand her about 3 feet of string. Her partner tells her to make a square on the floor and gives her directions, such as "Make a straight line. Stop. Turn 90 degrees." Play with teams—best shape wins. Try hexagons next!



HEALTH

Discuss examples of healthy and not-as-healthy snack foods. Players sit in a circle and take turns counting (1, 2, 3). In place of each multiple of five (5, 10, 15), the person in that spot substitutes a healthy snack food: 1-2-3-4-carrots-6-7-8-9-yogurt parfait. Count to 25. Then, begin again, using healthy breakfast, lunch, or dinner foods.

